



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

<http://judiciary.house.gov/>

News Advisory

For immediate release
August 22, 2006

Contact: Jeff Lungren/Terry Shawn
202-225-2492

Sensenbrenner Statement on New CBO 10-Year Cost Estimate of \$127 Billion for Reid-Kennedy Immigration Bill

Sensenbrenner: “We are now just beginning to see a glimpse of the staggering burden on American taxpayers the Reid-Kennedy immigration legislation contains.”

WASHINGTON, D.C. - House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner (R – Wis.) today released the following statement after the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report estimating the 10-year cost of the Reid-Kennedy immigration bill passed by the Senate at \$127 billion:

“We are now just beginning to see a glimpse of the staggering burden on American taxpayers the Reid-Kennedy immigration legislation contains. Twenty-four-and-a-half billion dollars for the earned income and child tax credits. Medicaid costs of \$11.7 billion. Social Security costs of \$5.2 billion. Medicare costs of \$3.7 billion. Food stamps costs of \$2.4 billion. The list goes on and on. This new social spending – in the hundreds of billions of dollars later on – will all be paid for by U.S. taxpayers. Additionally, this CBO report actually *underestimates* the Reid-Kennedy costs because the millions of illegal immigrants provided amnesty will not become citizens and thus, eligible for all social benefit programs, until after the 10-year time frame reviewed by CBO.

“Providing a massive amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants – over half of whom have an educational level of a high school degree or less – is unfair, unwise, and unaffordable. It’s unfair to the millions of people playing by the rules, waiting patiently in line, trying to immigrate legally. It’s unwise because it sends a message that the U.S. will condone, and in many ways, reward illegal immigration. And, the Reid-Kennedy amnesty is unaffordable because of the hundreds of billions of dollars in costs that will be shouldered by hard-working American taxpayers.”

####